

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Monday, November 21, 2005

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Deborah Barchi, Alice Barrows, Peter Deekle,
Donna Good, Leslie McDonough, Joan Ress Reeves, Tovah Reis

Members Absent: William Allen, Cristina Amedeo, Regina Connor, Mary Cummings,
Jay Litman, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Joshua Teverow

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Chief of Library Services, Beth Perry, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor, Hope Houston, Debbie Cullerton

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library; Cindy Lunghofer, RILA

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

- 1. Draft agenda**
- 2. (Summary) Highlights on Planning for the Future of Rhode Island Libraries**
- 3. Statewide Reference Resource Center 2005 Survey Results**

4. LBRI Committee Members Roster

The meeting was convened at 4:20 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions of Hope Houston and Debbie Cullerton were made by Anne Parent.

Hope Houston is the newly appointed Reader's Advisor in Talking Books Plus. She spoke

to the Board briefly about her new duties and her interaction with the patrons of

Talking Books Plus. Debbie Cullerton will now be the Library Board of Rhode Island liaison, replacing Laurie Scialabba.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the March 21, 2005, April 25, 2005 and September 26, 2005 meetings were moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that he has accepted an invitation to serve on the Providence Public Library Strategic Planning Committee.

III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

OLIS Status

Legislation that would have cleaned up the hopelessly outdated language about the state library agency was not approved this year, but the position of Chief of Library Services position is now official. Anne Parent has approached RILA about considering finding sponsors to reintroduce the legislation in the next session of the General Assembly, given that no legislation developed by the DOA was approved last year. Ms. Parent will keep the Board posted on the progress of seeking a different route to accomplish the change.

With regard to the physical location of Library and Information Services, all the remaining eleven 4th floor staff are being moved to the 2nd floor in January as part of a massive reorganization of DOA staff. The 11 staff members will join the 4 Talking Books Plus staff in relocated space at the northeast corner of the building. The OLIS Library and Media Services will remain on the 4th floor.

Youth Services News

1) Summer Reading Collaborative

OLIS has coordinated a statewide Summer Reading Program for 27 years, but 2006 will be the year that RI's state library agency will become the 32nd state to join the national Collaborative Summer Library Program. Youth Services consultant, Melody Allen, admits that there is some loss of local control and recognition for sponsors, the advantages are a full scale manual with sections on teen programs and serving kids with disabilities, a CD with lots of graphics and clip art, materials available in Spanish, and a broad

range of items to order. School libraries also help promote the public library Summer Reading Program as a way to keep students actively reading over the summer.

2) OLIS' Mother Goose Team is developing a "Getting Ready for Kindergarten" calendar which introduces wonderful books for 4 year olds with family activities based on the 8 areas of the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards that were developed by the RIDE and the Department of Human Services. Tips related to libraries and literacy are featured. A pilot calendar in both English and Spanish and covering four months is being tested with parents and providers.

L-TV

OLIS' Supervisor of Media Services Joe McGovern serves as technical advisor to a long term Rhode Island Library Association project known as L-TV. "Library television" is a cable television project produced by OLIS and RILA. This half hour cable show showcases library programs, collections and services, and promotes literacy. Special shows have also focused on such library issues as CIPA and library funding legislation. L-TV is shown on Channel 13, a statewide cable television interconnect channel, three times a week: Sundays at 12:30 p.m., Mondays at 2 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9 p.m. Over 100 episodes have been produced and cablecast. Every type of Rhode Island library has been featured including public, school, university, medical, and law libraries.

LibFutures

Joan Ress Reeves reported that the LibFutures committee met last Friday, and significant new possibilities resulted. The working group on Statewide Databases, completed its report and the report has been mounted on the Futures website. The website has moved from RIC to RWU, along with its webmaster Tim Spindler. The new web address is linked from the OLIS website, www.lori.ri.gov in the yellow column on the right (click on “Future of RI Libraries.”) The other two working groups, Lifelong Learning and One Catalog for All presented their reports at the LibFutures meeting, and these are expected to be mounted within a matter of days. Joan Reeves, LibFutures liaison, spoke and discussion followed on the costs over a 5 year period for the One Catalog for All.

Gates Grants

Beth Perry reported that RI was in the final round of states to receive Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation “Staying Connected” grant funding after the State Partnership Program and the Training Grants. The Staying Connected grant funds are currently being used to fund Spanish-speaking instructors for computer training sessions in public libraries, to purchase new computers for libraries in poverty areas, for technical support and for training of librarians in public access computing and related topics. The Spanish-speaking instructors fill a vital need in Rhode Island. The RI program has been cited in national presentations to library groups by Gates Foundation staff.

OLIS has been asked by Webjunction (funded by the Gates Foundation) to participate in two additional state grant programs -- reaching out to the Spanish-speaking and providing support for rural and small public libraries. The Gates Foundation is sponsoring a workshop for three rural librarians from each state in conjunction with the Public Library Association (PLA) conference in Boston next March. The workshop will help rural library staff understand existing data resources and models for measuring libraries' impact, and will give them new tools and skills to effectively communicate and advocate for their libraries.. OLIS has nominated library directors from Charlestown, Hope, and North Scituate to attend at the Foundation's expense, which also covers three days' hotel fees and PLA registration.

IMLS, LSTA Conference

Donna Longo DiMichele reported that she attended the IMLS' LSTA Conference on Wednesday and Thursday, November 16 and 17. Chaichin Chen also attended the conference this year, including a one-day preconference held on Tuesday at which she learned about the overall LSTA program. The primary focus of the conference was on various evaluation methods, processes and techniques that can be used for the upcoming evaluations of the states' Five-Year Plans for LSTA. Every state receives LSTA funds and is required to submit a Five-Year strategic plan to the IMLS, LSTA office. Toward the conclusion of the plan the IMLS requires an evaluation of the

complete plan. OLIS' previous Five-Year plan covered the years 1997 to 2002 and was evaluated during 2002.

The current plan runs from 2003 to 2007 and evaluations are due into IMLS in March 2007. A new Five-Year plan, covering 2008-2013, is due to IMLS in June of 2007. These two projects and deadlines have to be central to OLIS' schedule in the coming year.

OLIS will look into the efficacy of proceeding with a joint RFP and evaluation contract with other COSLINE states, which is how OLIS proceeded in the last evaluation. This is an effective process because at the end of it each state has an individual report, but the means to hiring an evaluator is smoothed and RI benefits from the input of other state agencies about the qualifications of the selected evaluator. Additionally costs are lower if a consultant is shared.

Bibliostat

It was reported that the public library directors had a positive experience using the Bibliostat program for their annual reports and think it is the best interface OLIS has thus far provided. It was easy to use and the technical support line at Bibliostat was very helpful and responded in a timely manner.

National Book Festival

Donna DiMichele attended the Library of Congress Center for the Book National Book Festival in Washington, DC, with Sarina Wyant

from the RI Center for the Book. They staffed a table in the Pavilion of the States, along with other state Centers for the Book. Funds to pay for travel expenses, handouts and shipping were from the Council of State Library Agencies (COSLA). The festival had more than 70,000 attendees.

Library Construction Update and SRRC Negotiations

Karen Mellor reported that on Sunday, December 4, 2005, the East Providence Public Library Riverside Branch will open, and that LBRI members are cordially invited to attend. Barrington Public Library has scheduled an opening on January 29, 2006. Also, the Town of Bristol went out to bid on their library project last month; bids are more than a million dollars over budget and the library is examining options so it can proceed with the project. Burrillville is preparing to go out to bid on their project this spring.

Ms. Mellor reported further that the Statewide Reference Resource Center contract with Providence Public Library has been finalized. This year's contract will provide expanded electronic access to SRRC services, including six additional hours of telephone and live chat online reference. In addition, PPL will provide statewide access to World Book Online for all CLAN cardholders. These new and expanded resources, along with current services offered by the SRRC such as Ask a Librarian, will be available via a new website that PPL will develop, host and promote; this website will have its own unique website address. The SRRC contract will be posted on the LORI

website soon.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MLS requirements for State Librarian in other states will be postponed until a future meeting due to the complexity of the responses Ms. Parent received when she posted the question to the list of all Chief Officers of State Library Agencies. A number of states reported by citing statutes that are open to interpretation.

Review of Board Bylaws will be postponed until the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Peter Deekle reported on activities of the HELIN and CRIARL consortia, including the following:

– HELIN completed the process of incorporation as a nonprofit organization, and moved its financial management from URI to Bryant University. Roger Williams University remains HELIN's personnel service agency.

– The Davis Foundation approved a multi-year grant to fund a digital repository project for HELIN libraries (enabling the conversion and

management of unique materials in member library holdings)

– HELIN created a third position, a new Knowledge Management Librarian, to work with HELIN member institutions and clients

– The Consortium of RI Academic and Research Libraries Union List was added to HELIN and InRhode online catalogs

– Hospital libraries' book and serials holdings were added to HELIN and InRhode catalogs

– Wheaton College became a full HELIN member in July 2005

– HELIN's Annual Conference is January 10, 2006 at Bryant University. Library Board members are invited to attend. Among the featured speakers will be

Russell Bailey who will talk about the Information Commons concept in libraries and television news reporter Jim Taricani who will talk about his recent court case. His story will be of particular interest to librarians and library staff because of the link between confidentiality of sources in journalism and confidentiality of patron records in libraries. His story is also of particular interest to libraries in regard to the Patriot Act, and the privacy right implicit in the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. ALA President Michael Gorman will speak via Video Conference. His talk will also be streamed by live video. All librarians in the state are invited to the Conference.

Invitations will be sent through library listservs pointing to the Conference Web-site and on-line registration form.

Tovah Reis reported on some of the major issues currently facing the hospital libraries such as:.

- Library as place and its location**

- Who is responsible for consumer health – librarians or the PR department**

- Who is responsible for selection of electronic content – the library or the computing/technology department**

- Role of librarians in providing informational links from the electronic patient record**

- Making all health information users aware of the limits of Google**

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna DiMichele announced the RI Center for the Book is currently reorganizing and anyone with interest in becoming involved should contact her.

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

**The next Library Board meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2005,
at the Department of Administration.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.